

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 COME-00 SCI-06 CEQ-02 EPA-04

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1385

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0188

E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: TGEN, BCOM, GR

SUBJECT: US FIRMS ACQUITTED OF ALLEGED POLLUTION VIOLATIONS

1. THESSALONIKI PAPERS OF MARCH 27 CARRIED BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACQUITTAL PREVIOUS DAY OF THREE MAJOR US COMPANIES ON CHARGES OF VIOLATING HEALTH REGULATIONS FOR EFFLUENT DISPOSAL . THESSALONIKI COURT OF MISDEMEANORS RULED THAT ESSO- PAPPAS, ETHYL- HELLAS, AND HELLENIC STEEL HAVE TAKEN " ALL INDICATED MEASURES" TO AVOID POLLUTION OF SEA.
2. COMMENT: WHILE FINES FOR POLLUTION VIOLATIONS ARE FREQUENTLY IMPOSED BY THESSALONIKI HARBOR MASTER, MARCH 26 HEARING IS FIRST COURT CASE WE AWARE OF INVOLVING MAJOR LOCAL INDUSTRIES AND REFLECTS INCREASING GOVERNMENT CONCERN RE INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION HERE. ESSO- PAPPAS COMPLEX CONTAINS SOME OF LARGEST LOCAL INDUSTRIES AND HAS BEEN FREQUENT TARGET FOR ANTI- POLLUTION CRITICS DESPITE REPORTED HIGH EXPENDITURES BY PLANTS INVOLVED FOR POLLUTION CONTROL. CONGEN BELIEVES THAT ACQUITTAL IN THIS CASE MAY SHIFT PUBLIC ATTENTION TO INDUSTRIES WITH MORE ACUTE PROBLEMS. BRENNAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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